of North-Eastern Region, North-Eastern Councial has been constituted under an Act of Parliament since 1972. The Council is an advisory body empowered to discuss matters of common interest of two or more states of North-East and advises the Central Government in matters of common interest, inter-alia, in the fields of economic and social planning, inter-State transport and communication, power and flood control projects in these States.

Mahila Branches in Commerical Banks

3598. SHRIMATI ANANDIBEN JETHABHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the RBI has issued any instructions to all commercial banks in the country to provide mahila banks or branches to be manned by women only;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of such banks opened in the country alongwith the branches of the various banks being manned by the women exclusively in the country; and

(d) the further steps taken or being taken by the authorities to open more such banks in the country?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that it has not issued any instructions to commercial banks for opening branches to be manned only by women.

(c) and (d) RBI has further reported that as on 31st May, 1996, there were 68 women urban co-operative banks throughout the country, The data reporting system of RBI does not, however, generate information regarding branchs of various commercial banks manned exclusively by women.

Production of Films by NFDC

3599. SHRI K.RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of films have been produced by the National Film Development Corporation and the expenditure incurred for producing the film during the last three years;

(b) what is the Revenue earned from these film productions;

(c) out of them how many films are produced in Regional languages and the number of films in each of he regional language; and

(d) which are the films produced by the NFDC having won the National and International Awards during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) National Film Develpoment Corporation Limited (NFDC) produced 18 films under its own production and NFDC-Doordarshan Co-production Scheme during the last 3 years viz. 1992-93, 1993-94, & 1994-95. The cost of production of these films is Rs. 484.47 lakhs.

(b) The Corporation earned a revenue of Rs. 363.61 lakhs from these films during the last 3 years.

(c) Out of the 18 films, 9 films produced were in regional languages. These included 7 films in Bengali and one each in Marathi and Oriya.

(d) During the last 3 years, the following 12 films produced by the NFDC have won National And International Awards:

1. Tahader Katha
2. Ek Hota Vidushak
3. Rudali
4. Miss Beatty's Children
5. Antareen
6. Suraj Ka Satvan Ghoda

7. Uttoran
8. Nirbachana
9. Amodini
10. Tarpan
11. Wheel Chair
12. Mammo

Sale of Salt Meant for Animals for Human Consumption

3600. SHRI RAM NATH KOVIND:
DR. RANBIR SINGH:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether All India Institute of Medical Sciences and the International Council for Control of Iodine Deficiency Disorders have in recent past conducted some studies indicating that salt meant for animals is being sold for human consumption;

(b) whether these studies also indicated that Delhi school children still suffer with iodine deficiency;

(c) whether the International Council for Control of Iodine Deficiency Disorders on these studies have also made some recommendations; and

(d) if so, the details thereof with steps to be taken to implement the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI): (a) The studies conducted by All India Institute of Medical Sciences and the International Council for Control of Iodine Deficiency Disorders are yet to confirm that the uniodised salft meant for animal use is being used for human consumption also.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) The main recommendations made are:—

(i) Iodine Deficiency Disorder (IDD) control meastres in the form of effective salt iodisation should be strengthened in Delhi.

(ii) Monitoring of iodine content of salt should be done regularly. In addition to the Government channels, non - governmental organisations and the school system should also be involved.

(iii) Regular IDO prevalence surveys should be carried out to track the progress made towards the elimination of IDD.

India becoming Expensive Destination

3601. PROF. NAUNIHAL SINGH:
Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that tourist package would rise by 15 percent and this would lead to negative publicity as India is already an expensive destination;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the rent of a room in a three-star hotel in India is around $ 80 and many tourists have started to look for other destinations;

(d) if so, the steps taken in the matter

(e) whether Government are proposing a 15 percent tariff on hotel room costing more than Rs. 500 which will result in tourist inflow coming down; and

(f) if so, steps taken to counter it?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SHRIKANTA JENA): (a) and (b) The cost of tourist packages in dependent on various factors and is worked and is worked out by the Travel Industry based on Market forces

No reports of negative publicity have been received in the Department so far

(c) and (d) No, Sir. Even if it is so, it is not regulated by us since it is a private sector matter depending demand and supply.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.